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The chapter by Dr. West on franchises in New York City is purely historical. It furnishes a good, convenient and desirable sketch of the formal side of the relations of the public to the franchises granted in that city.

Although the work as a whole seems to me seriously defective in scientific spirit and method, it would be far from correct to suppose that it does not have great value. It shows in almost every chapter the results of great energy and perseverance in gathering material and an honest effort to work up the material into attractive form. It doubtless will be widely read, and will surely be instrumental in calling increased attention to some of the most serious problems with which our age has to deal. So far as the work has faults, they will be pointed out and corrected, while the interest created in the subject by so readable a book will remain and work towards the solution of these problems.

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*Industrial Cuba.* Being a study of present commercial and industrial conditions, with suggestions as to the opportunities presented in the island for American capital, enterprise, and labor. By ROBERT P. PORTER. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons. 8vo, pp. vi + 428. Price \$3.50.

*Commercial Cuba.* A Book for Business Men. By WILLIAM J. CLARK. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1898. Pp. xvii + 514. Price \$4.

THERE is a special significance in the titles *Commercial* and *Industrial Cuba*. With the final evacuation and pacification of the island, the political and moral aspects of West Indian problems have lost much of their importance. Economic considerations are now pushed to the fore, and interest centers about the commercial results of political changes.

Ignorance of Cuban conditions and Cuban possibilities has been quite general in the United States, and, while it is necessary to enlighten those who believe Cuba to be virgin soil which offers unlimited possibilities for investment under the protection of the United States, it was, also, important to show the real possibilities for industrial and

commercial development. Robert T. Hill was one of the first to give definite information of the resources of Cuba. His position on the geological staff lends semi-official support to his statements, and in his scientific training he has produced a book decidedly readable and unexceptionable in classification. He, however, describes the resources of all the West Indies, merely giving Cuba her wonted prominence.

Of a somewhat different character are the two ponderous volumes before us. Mr. Porter's *Industrial Cuba* is the work of the special commissioner for the United States. He has had unusual facilities for studying the present condition of Cuba, and we are indebted to him for many additional facts, especially concerning the recent tariff changes and provisional government. The amended Cuban tariff is given in full, as well as many other statistics regarding the revenue, production, and estimates of values. At various points throughout the book are summed up a few practical suggestions for dealing with the island.

The last part of the book is the best, treating, as it does, of purely economic questions—commerce, mining, agriculture, navigation. Here there are fewer comments, although Mr. Porter has something of a traveler's eye for æsthetic effects.

*Industrial Cuba* is necessarily a report, but its publication in its present form presupposes some literary value. A compilation of notes is always unsatisfactory. The student is glad to find in reports verbatim interviews and long quotations from documents, but such disjointed material is an imposition upon the busy reader, who wishes a condensation and readable presentation of these results. The two other books—Mr. Hill's and Mr. Clark's—introduce no irrelevant considerations. In this respect *Industrial Cuba* suffers by comparison, for its loose arrangement allows repetitions, and the introduction of technical and statistical material is not concentrated sufficiently to attract the general reader, nor so well classified as to serve for ready reference. A certain patriotic bumptiousness pervades the first few chapters of the book, vitiates the value of the statements, and is wholly unbecoming a scientific treatment. This spirit is evinced in a bias for annexation and constant censure of Spain, forgetting that a mere enumeration of facts proves the most unanswerable condemnation. A specimen of this method is found in the discussion of the slavery problem. Condemnation of Spain makes it necessary to stigmatize

the slavery system in Cuba as the worst in existence. At this point the reader recalls Hill's treatment of Cuban slavery, in which he shows that in no other of the West Indian islands was the black man so well treated, and he is even more surprised to find the same passage quoted in full later in the book without any thought of contradiction involved.

Clark's *Commercial Cuba* approximates Hill's *Cuba and Porto Rico*, but it is more detailed, being intended primarily for business men. Certainly for the business man *Commercial Cuba* will prove most valuable. Besides the information concerning the resources of the island, the book contains a number of practical suggestions describing the trading habits of Cubans and warning against errors in shipment. The book, however, is something more than a guide to the merchant and the investor. Its careful classification will make it a convenient book of reference, and in view of the growing interest in economic geography, the study of the physical features of Cuba—a topic ignored by the author of *Industrial Cuba*—is a useful contribution. The arrangement is not so conventional as Mr. Hill's, but somewhat fuller. The chapter on animal and vegetable life is especially complete, including a careful list of timber resources. Sugar and tobacco—their history and methods of cultivation—are elaborately discussed. More than half of the work consists of a compendium of facts relating to the different provinces. The descriptions of the character of production, of the special advantages of the island, of the towns and ports are so admirable, supplemented as they are by maps and statistics, as to give an unwonted vividness to the account, while the tables of exports and imports adequately portray the importance of Cuban trade. The inferences of the book are to be drawn rather from the facts themselves than from the author's comments.

Both books show conclusively, by a strong presentation of facts, the commercial exploitation and industrial repression which Cuba has endured, and—what has more influence for the future—the extent of the resources which, could for many years, support such oppressive economic conditions.

The last word has not been said about Cuba, but thanks to the painstaking efforts of these authors, we are in possession of an accumulation of data that shows what can be done to develop the resources of the island. The problems of labor and transportation; the possibilities in agriculture, in fruit and vegetable growing, in mining and in forestry, and the opportunities for outlays of capital, have been

outlined in these books, showing primarily the commercial cause for the separation from Spain, and the need and inevitable growth of closer commercial relations between the United States and Cuba.

E. FOGG.

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*Municipal Functions: A Study of the Development, Scope, and Tendency of Municipal Socialism.* By MILO RAY MALTBYE, PH.D. With a complete index. New York: Reform Club Committee on Municipal Administration, 52 William street, 1898. Pp. 223.

THE work before us makes a complete number (Vol. II, No. 4) of *Municipal Affairs*. The Reform Club has added to the obligations under which it placed all students of municipal government about two years ago by the publication of *A Bibliography of Municipal Administrations and City Conditions*. In the present work the editor of *Municipal Affairs*, who is also the secretary of the Committee on Municipal Administration of this club, set before himself an arduous but modest task. What that task is may best be described in his own words in the prefatory note:

It is therefore attempted below *first*, briefly to discuss the historic development of municipal functions; *second*, more fully to consider the scope of present municipal activities; and *third*, to analyze the various forces which determine the extent of municipal socialism, to discover present tendencies, and to forecast future developments. No attempt has been made to discuss the proper scope of municipal functions. The present study is confined to stating what the municipality *does*, leaving to others the task of drawing conclusions as to what it *ought to do*, and of applying to present problems the facts impartially stated therein.

The above lengthy extract shows clearly not only what the author attempted to do, but what he has accomplished with great success and discrimination. His impartiality in dealing with so large a mass of material from all over the world, and with a period reaching from remote antiquity to the present, is all the more remarkable when it is recalled that he is the editor of a journal devoted to the discussion of current municipal questions.

The author was greatly assisted in gathering material for this study by the United States Department of State which kindly used the consular service for that purpose.